

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00
EB-08 /131 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH:HMN
APPROVED BY AF:RMMOOSE
NEA/AFN:JBISHOP
AF/C:TDOUBLEDAY

-----019737 110223Z /63

R 100207Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 147853

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:OVIP (SENGHOR, LEOPOLD) SG

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT SENHOR'S MEETING WITH SENATE AND
HOUSE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEES

1. SUMMARY: JUNE 7 PRESIDENT SENHOR WAS THE GUEST OF
THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE
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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE IN TWO SEPARATE, HOUR-
LONG, SESSIONS. SENHOR MADE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME
STATEMENT TO EACH COMMITTEE, EMPHASIZING HIS CONCERN
REGARDING SOVIET AND CUBAN INTERVENTION IN AFRICA. END
SUMMARY.

2. SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE SESSION WAS ATTENDED

BY SENATORS SPARKMAN, JAVITS, CLARK, PERCY AND ZORINSKY. SESSION WITH THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE WAS ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES ZABLOCKI, DIGGS, BINGHAM, MEYNER,-PEASE, PETTIS,-AND CAVANAUGH. IN EACH CASE, AFTER INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMEN, SENGHOR WAS INVITED TO MAKE A STATEMENT WHICH RAN ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES. HE BEGAN WITH A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SENEGAL DRAWING ATTENTION TO THE PROGRESS MADE SINCE INDEPENDENCE DESPITE SUCH HANDICAPS AS THE SAHELIE DROUGHT. HE THEN SAID HE WISHED TO DESCRIBE THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY SITUATION

IN AFRICA. HE SAID WE ARE WITNESSING THE PREPARATIONS FOR WORLD WAR III. HE QUOTED LENIN SAYING, "WHO HOLDS AFRICA, HOLDS EUROPE". AFRICA WAS FREE OF GREAT POWER INTERVENTION BETWEEN THE TIME MOST STATES BECAME INDEPENDENT IN 1960 UNTIL 1975. SINCE 1975, THE SOVIETS HAVE SOUGHT TO DESTABILIZE AFRICA. SENGHOR SAID THAT HE WAS THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH THE SITUATION IN PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING AFRICA, SINCE THE TIME GENERAL SPINOLA HAD MET HIM SECRETLY , WHEN SPINOLA WAS PORTUGUESE COMMANDER IN GUINEA-BISSAU. SENGHOR SAID THAT AT THAT TIME HE HAD ADVISED THE PORTUGUESE TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE OPPOSITION IN EACH OF THEIR COLONIES. SENGHOR THEN DISCUSSED THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA. HE RECALLED THAT HEAVY PRESSURE HAD BEEN PUT ON HIM BY THE FRENCH TO RECOGNIZE NETO. HE SAID THAT HE HAD RESISTED THIS
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PRESSURE AND TOLD THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT THAT THEY WERE OPENING THE DOOR TO SOVIET AGGRESSION IN ZAIRE OR ZAMBIA. SENGHOR SAID HE DID NOT REALIZE AT THE TIME HOW PROPHETIC HE WAS. SENGHOR CHARACTERIZED THE SITUATION IN WESTERN SAHARA AND CHAD AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF SOVIET INTERVENTION AND SAID THE LONG RUN GOAL OF THE SOVIETS IS TO ISOLATE THE MODERATES IN AFRICA. HE SAID THE SOVIETS WERE ARMING THEIR FRIENDS AND PROVIDING CUBAN REINFORCEMENTS. HE DESCRIBED HIS EFFORTS TO FORM AN AFRICAN SOCIALIST ALLIANCE. HE EMPHASIZED SENEGAL'S INTENTION TO SEND A BATTALION TO SHABA. HE SAID SENEGAL WAS READY TO FIGHT BUT NEEDED HELP. HE DESCRIBED THE CEAO DEFENSE PACT AND DREW ATTENTION TO HIS PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A NON-AGGRESSION PACT IN ECOWAS.

3. IN BOTH THE SENATE AND HOUSE HE WAS ASKED FOR HIS VIEWS OF THE SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA. HE REPLIED TO BOTH QUESTIONS BY RECALLING HIS CONVERSATION WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER, IN WHICH HE URGED KISSINGER TO GET DIALOGUES GOING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA AND THE BLACK LEADERSHIP IN BOTH COUNTRIES. IN THE HOUSE HE WAS ASKED ABOUT FRENCH INTERVENTION IN AFRICA AND

HOW THIS DIFFERED FROM SOVIET AND CUBAN INTERVENTION. HE REPLIED BY DRAWING ATTENTION TO THE DEFENSE PACTS BETWEEN FRANCE AND SEVERAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES, AND SAID THESE AGREEMENTS LEGITIMIZED THE FRENCH RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FROM THESE GOVERNMENTS FOR ASSISTANCE.

4. HE WAS ASKED IN THE HOUSE ABOUT THE SITUATION IN WESTERN SAHARA. IN REPLYING HE RIDICULED THE CLAIMS OF THE POLISARIO, SAYING A STATE OF 70,000 INHABITANTS IS RIDICULOUS. HE DESCRIBED HIS PROPOSALS FOR A REFERENDUM

IN THE SAHARA WITH THREE OPTIONS: CONTINUATION OF MOROCCAN AND MAURITANIAN ANNEXATION OF SAHARA, CONFEDERATION WITH THESE TWO STATES, OR AUTONOMY. HE
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CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT HE GREATLY REGRETTED THE US REFUSAL TO SELL PLANES TO MOROCCO.

5. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN GUINEA'S FOREIGN POLICY, HE STRONGLY APPROVED OF IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN GUINEA AND SENEGAL, AND GUINEA'S OPENING TO THE WEST.

6. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS WHAT THE US SHOULD BE DOING, HE SAID THAT HE HAD TWO GENERAL COMMENTS BUT NO SPECIFIC DEMANDS TO MAKE OF THE UNITED STATES. FIRST, HE URGED THAT THE US RECOGNIZE THAT AFRICAN STATES NEED ADVICE, ARMS AND LOGISTICAL SUPPORT, ALTHOUGH NOT TROOPS AT THIS TIME. SECOND, HE URGED THE US TO INCREASE ITS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO AFRICA, AND THE OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE US SHOULD INCREASE ITS OFFICIAL RESOURCE TRANSFERS TO .7 PERCENT OF GNP. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE147853
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TWMSMITH:HMN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780243-1078
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780672/aaaackkh.tel
Line Count: 154
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 08aabf8b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2403922
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S MEETING WITH SENATE AND HOUSE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEES
TAGS: OVIP, SG, (SENGHOR, LEOPOLD)
To: DAKAR
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/08aabf8b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014